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Friday, September 16, 2011

THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

Dutch Crown Prince keynote speaker at Aruba Green Conference



scheduled to speak on Saturday October 29th. Unquestionably, the Prins' speech has given this year's green conference an interesting new dimension.

This mega event is to be held here from October 27 to 29. World-renowned speakers on the theme of green energy will be here on Aruba. These experts will expound on how we must deal with planet earth so that for generations to come others can

continue enjoying it as much as we did.

In this year's green conference the commissioner of the European Union, Mr. Andris Piebalgs, Jan Willem Kelder of the Board of TNO and Jan Ebbing the coordinator of

TNO in the Caribbean will be participating. Other participants are: CEO of Repsol, Mr. Phil Ribbeck, and Dr. Mitzi Montoya of the University of Arizona.

Wubbo Ockels will be returning for this year's conference to offer a lecture on the latest developments in alternative energy. Also expected are, CEO of Triodos Bank Peter Blom, Milton Berlinski who is managing director of Goldman Sachs, Joop Wijn member of the Board of ABN-AMRO Bank, Kevin De Cuba, Adam Warren, and Ministers Eman, de Meza and Hooyboer-Winkelaar. Each Minister will present a discourse in addition to several other speakers.

During this year's conference they will sign the contract with TNO and officially open the Europe House here. Again this year the expectation for an interesting and extremely informative conference is high. It appears that no one will want to miss this event. This second Green Conference will be nothing short of spectacular.

ORANJESTAD -- His royal highness the crown Prins of the Netherlands, Prins Willem-Alexander has confirmed his participation as keynote speaker for the upcoming mega event here in Aruba...Green Aruba II.

Prins Willem-Alexander is

Hadicurari Fisherman's clubhouse is getting a facelift



See story on page 8

Monumental Building Celebrates Centennial Birthday



ORANJESTAD -- Minister of Infrastructure and Environment, Benny Sievinger, received from J. Croes of Croes Architecture Studio NV and from the Director of the Office of Monuments Mrs. Yvonne Webb-Kock, an architectural rendition of the monumental building in the Zoutmanstraat 1.

The gift of the painting was presented in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the monumental building. History recounts that the laying of the first stone for the construction of this building was on the 10th of September in 1910. Construction of the edifice was completed in 1911.

This building is one of the protected monuments of Aruba. In keeping with the government's "Bo Aruba" program, which includes the

restoration of all monuments, this is one of the monuments programmed for complete restoration. It will be part of the greater Historic Center project.

Minister Sievinger received the architect's rendition of the monumental building. Architect J. Croes is currently preparing all the blueprints to be submitted for public tender within a matter of weeks so that the restoration process can begin in earnest this very year.

It has been decided that this monumental building will become a "Tienda di Artesano" (Artist' Workshop). Here artists could prepare their art pieces where the public could go and purchase original art pieces made in Aruba. All art pieces would be certified with an official seal.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

US lawmakers seek delay in lifting military gay ban

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Republican lawmakers in the House of Representatives are calling for a delay in lifting the ban on gays serving openly in the US military, saying new rules have not yet been made available.

A letter to Defense Secretary Leon Panetta from House Armed Services Committee chair Buck McKeon and Joe Wilson, who chairs a subcommittee, said President Barack Obama's administration has failed to provide details about the new regulations that repeal the former "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

"Committee officials have

requested, but not received, copies of the revised regulations and a summary of all the specific policy changes, especially with regard to benefits, that will take effect upon repeal," the letter said.

This "leads us to conclude that decisions on the policies and regulations to implement repeal are not complete and that your certification and those of the others were inaccurate," the two lawmakers said in the letter dated September 12, eight days before the new policy takes effect.

They noted that Panetta and Admiral Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, had certified on July 22 that the Department of Defense had prepared the necessary policies and regulations to repeal the ban.

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" required gay troops to keep quiet about their sexual orientation or face expulsion from the forces. An estimated 14,000 service members have been

kicked out of the military under the rule.

Amid a fierce political debate, the ban was overturned in a law adopted in December that first required the top military officer, the defense secretary and the president to certify that the change would not harm military readiness and that the armed forces were ready to carry it out.

In the interim, the Pentagon has drawn up new manuals and prepared the entire armed forces, some 2.3 million people who serve as both active troops and reservists, for the new policy.

But the letter said the actions are not yet complete for the September 20 implementation.

"Since it is evident that the department does not have final, approved policies in place, we believe it is essential that you take immediate action to delay the implementation of repeal," the two congressmen said.

NATO, Afghan forces capture Kabul attacks suspects: US

WASHINGTON (AFP) - NATO and Afghan forces have captured at least two suspects linked to a dramatic Taliban assault on the US embassy and NATO headquarters in Kabul, US military officials said Thursday.

A Taliban suspect and a member of the Pakistan-based Haqqani network were held on Wednesday a day after the attacks in the Afghan capital which left 15 dead, the Pentagon said, quoting ISAF reports.

The Taliban suspect "and his associates are linked to multiple attacks against Afghan and coalition forces, including the September 13 at-

tacks on the NATO headquarters and the US embassy in Kabul," the statement said.

The Taliban suspect had also planned vehicle-bomb attacks and was captured in Afghanistan's Paktiya province, it added.

The brazen assault raged for 19 hours amid a hail of rockets, grenades and suicide blasts as Afghan and foreign troops battled insurgents.

The standoff ended when troops finally killed the two last insurgents who had held out overnight in a high-rise building under construction just a few hundred metres from the heavily guarded US embassy.

Obama honors Afghan war hero marine



WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama Thursday awarded a fearless US Marine, who five times defied a Taliban firestorm to save 36 ambushed men, with America's highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor.

Former marine sergeant Dakota Meyer, 23, and a comrade Juan Rodriguez-Chavez, defied orders and repeatedly drove into a village despite a blizzard of enemy fire, to rescue Afghan troops and their American trainers after a deadly ambush in northeastern Afghanistan.

Obama told how Meyer, despite machine gun fire, bullets, grenades and mortars, loaded up injured and trapped Afghans into his vehicle and took them to safety, returning to the line of fire no less than five times.

On his last journey into the inferno in the battle in September 2009, he found four fallen US comrades.

"Bullets kicking up the dirt, he kept going until he found those four Americans laying together as one team," Obama said. "Through all those bullets, all the smoke, all the chaos, he carried them

out one by one." "In Sergeant Dakota Meyer, we see the best of a generation that has served with distinction through a decade in war," Obama said.

Meyer, a corporal at the time of the action who was wounded in the arm by shrapnel, has said he was a failure as his four marine comrades were killed in the ambush.

But Obama looked the marine in the eye during the ceremony and said: "As your commander-in-chief and on behalf of everyone here today and all Americans, I want you to know it is quite the opposite." "You did your duty. Above and beyond."

"Because of your honor, 36 men are alive today, because of your courage four fallen American heroes came home."

In an interview with NBC News, Meyer, who now works on a construction site and is in the Marine Reserve, denied he was a hero.

"I'm the furthest thing from a hero," he said. "Every man and woman who serves is a hero," Meyer said, adding that he would accept the award on behalf of his comrades who died.

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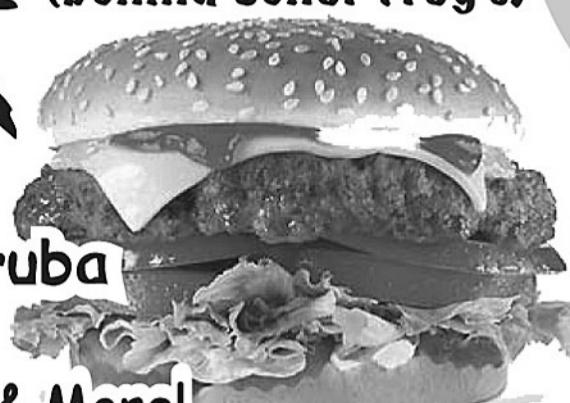
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Center for the Development of Women Proclaims Commitment to Aruban women



Gobierno di Arub

ORANJESTAD -- The new Department for Women's Affairs, the Center for the Development of Women (CEDEHM) in a recent press conference explained how the Center functions and what are their primary goals and objectives.

Sandra Brown, together with Ruth Tromp of the Bo-Bario project and Celia Thiel of Social Affairs explained exactly what this new department does.

Ruth Tromp informed the press that this department is extremely occupied. They have recently approached the Bo-Bario project leaders to assist in this project. Apart from the beautification of the infrastructure of the barrios, the social aspect also plays a pivotal role in the overall vision of the government. In their contacts with the residents of the barrios, it was noted that women play a major role. Women appear to be the hub around which everything turns in our community. The woman's role in the family is very big. In an effort to fortify and solidify and unify families on Aruba in such a manner as to improve the quality of life of each individual, CEDEHM plays an important role. Their focus is on the woman and her role in the society.

Director of CEDEHM, San-

dra Brown enthusiastically told of the plans of the Department and how they intend to execute those plans. Brown explained that CEDEHM exists because it was necessary to have a department that could have all the room necessary to meet specific needs and responsibilities. Women needed a specific place where they could go with their concerns. This department has become the place where women could go for advise, dialogue and to vent themselves whenever necessary. CEDEHM wants to be there for women in those situations, to offer support. CEDEHM is not there only to help in times of trouble, but also in times when things are pleasant. Men may also find support and a listening ear if they so desire.

CEDEHM will be visiting families in the barrios. They will organize information sessions and interesting lectures.

Mrs. Brown informed the press that CEDEHM will begin offering a lecture on "The Woman of Today." This will be to show how the Aruban woman developed down through the years. Women were always and still are the pillar of the Aruban household.

They will provide more information concerning this planned lecture in due course.

Government must decide how to proceed on Gas Exploration



ORANJESTAD -- For the past two years the Minister of Finance, Mike De Meza, has been actively involved in the planning phase of the business of gas exploration in Aruba's territorial waters. The planning has progressed satisfactorily. In the context of all that has transpired thus far, it was decided to make a visual presentation of all the work conducted thus far and present this to the Aruba Parliament.

De Meza explained that it was always the intention of the government to explore the possibility of finding gas in Aruba's territorial waters. Especially in view of the recent large natural gas reserve discovered in Venezuelan waters which happens to be very close to Aruba's territory, it became obvious that there may be natural gas in Aruba waters as well. The Venezuelan find raised the interest in exploring gas in Aruba waters even greater.

In view of the above perspective three big companies approached the Aruba government, namely: Heritage of England, Repsol of Spain, and Northern Petroleum of the United States. The interest of these companies is to explore petroleum or natural gas.

The government met, back some years ago, with the di-

rector of CAP, Armando Curet to ascertain how they should move forward on this matter. A special commission of local experts was formed with the utility companies and CAP along with Dutch and English experts led by a British advisor. Their task was to study the information collected and to dialogue with the interested companies.

After many meetings and discussions, the commission arrived at an advice, which they presented, to the government of Aruba. In the interest

of transparency, Minister De Meza considered it prudent to have the information presented to him be relayed to Parliament by those who were directly involved in the process. Hence, it was decided to do a visual presentation of the findings to Parliament.

CAP made said presentation to Parliament with the assistance of European experts from the Fugro Development & Production company.

Continued on page 5



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Happy winners at Palm Beach Casino



On Thursday, September 13, Mike, from the U.S., visited the Palm Beach Casino in the Westin for a few hours of enjoyment. Surprise, surprise, he won the neat sum of \$7,500 at the "Let it Ride" table. Needless to say he was very happy!

Five days prior, on September 8, The Palm Beach Casino gave away a total of \$15,275 in cash prizes, while recently, 7 loyal patrons won at different slot machines, all in a single day.

Jose Valls just checked in at the Westin Resort, decided to relax in the casino for a bit, and

he won \$ 3,325.60 on the "Kick 'n Ass" machine- a wonderful start to his vacation.

Vickie Renshaw won \$2,700 from the "Lucky 7" slot machine.

All the winners agree: they are very happy with the Palm Beach Casino, which demonstrated once again that it is the place to win. "Come visit us and see for yourself the various promotion we have every week," commented a casino spokesperson.

Photo shows Vickie Renshaw proudly showing off her winnings

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Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort brings Christmas to Aruba a little early

The Holiday Inn has experienced a renaissance in their offerings at their various restaurants with the arrival of Chef Vincent Ordóñez from the 5-star 5-diamond Grand America Resort in Salt Lake City, and he particularly demonstrated his virtuosity with a sample "Christmas in September" buffet for island media and holiday party planners earlier this month.

Santa and the resort's new GM, Patricia Perrone welcomed one and all to enjoy a delectable selection of sea-



Holiday Inn F & B and sales team



GM of five months Patricia Perrone with Santa

gatherings are at this time, and they urge those that love their mothers to save them all the work and stress by arranging an affordable luncheon at the resort surrounded by their tasteful holiday decorations and cheerful ambiance; special seasonal menus are as little as \$29. They have even thought about the incidentals of parking, and made arrangements for groups to park free in the Paseo Herencia garage.

To arrange a care-



free and enjoyable holiday celebration, call Magali Meza-Guzman or Bettina Daal at the Holiday Inn, tel: 526-3441 and give your mother a gift she will really appreciate!

by Rosalie Klein



Carving station featuring ham, turkey and roast beef

food, smoked duck, a fabulous carving station, traditional Aruban holiday dishes and a fresh and varied salad bar, a preview of what they offer for companies setting up their end of year celebrations.

The Holiday Inn Ballroom can easily handle hundreds, but executives explained they will happily accommodate groups as small as 10 or 25 with a special they call "Save Mom the Trouble." The resort's F&B staff members appreciate how important family

APA N.V. and the University of Aruba form partnership to economic development

ORANJESTAD -- Aruba Ports Authority and the Faculty of Tourism & International Business of the University of Aruba have formed a union aimed at assessing and supporting the importance of the Oranjestad port for the Aruban economy by conducting market analyses to create a database which will be made available in a comprehensible and actionable form.

Both institutions will work closely together to organize a yearly conference which will focus on local, regional and international perspectives of the port industry, periodical economic impact studies and research projects around the development, operations and marketing of the port and related services.

During the months of September, October and November of 2011 University students will be conducting research on the calculation of the generated economic impact (direct and indirect) for Aruba. The survey data will then be used to produce direct spending patterns for specific sectors of our economy, such as F&B, retail, tours and transportation, among others.

The new strategic partnership between APA N.V. and the University of Aruba (SCA) was spearheaded by Mrs.

Tamara Waldron, Marketing & Communications Manager at APA, and by Prof. Dr. Ryan Peterson, former dean and currently professor at the University of Aruba, and president of the National Council for Innovation and Competitiveness of Aruba.

The efforts will be conducted in close cooperation with CBS, Central Bureau of Statistics and Dr. Andrew Moody, Founder of the reputable international organization Business Research and Economic Advisors (BREA) which will allow for a broader perspective of integrated economic, financial and demographic data which will ensure the development of professional studies.

Dr Moody will have a supporting role in the partnership of the two (2) institutions and is scheduled to actively participate in the Conference planned for mid 2012 where the results will be presented.

The study is geared at understanding the experiences and expenditures of port visitors in the Aruban economy. Students will play a key role in designing the survey questionnaire, collecting and analyzing the data, presenting the results, and discussing the findings and recommendations.

Government must decide . . .

Continued from page 3

The Dutch Department of Economics' financial expert also formed part of the presentation. He explained to Parliament exactly how such a procedure should be realized in the event that they arrive at bidding.

The Aruba government is of the opinion that should there be a find of whatever mineral in Aruba's territorial waters, this will be the property of Aruba. In the past there was a signed agreement

that should there be a find in Aruba's waters, 80% would be for Aruba and 20% would be for the other islands in the Antilles. However, the situation today is completely different. De Meza is of the opinion that the division of the find should remain the same, but that the 20% should be divided in a much larger manner with the other islands. In the event of a find, such a reserve in principle belongs to the island of Aruba.

Pullmantur's does ship transfer in Aruba

ORANJESTAD -- Pullman Cruises has announced their intention to change their ship currently being used in the area, the Ocean Dream, for the Horizon, for the upcoming cruise high-season. It is the company's intention to do this on Monday, October 17th, 2011.

The Ocean Dream, which presently calls every Monday at our port, will have approximately nine hundred (900) passengers onboard who will be transferring from one ship to the other.

Maduro & Sons, Aruba's most experienced ship agent and APA's oldest partner has taken all the necessary steps to make sure that



all arrangements have been made to make this transaction as smooth as possible for the crew and passengers of the ship. The agents together

with the port personnel, immigration and customs officers on property have been duly informed.

New report on Alzheimer's disease points to need for early intervention

NEW YORK/LONDON -- Early-stage Alzheimer's disease interventions could be more effective if started even earlier, according to a new report on the condition published by Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI), the international federation of 76 Alzheimer associations worldwide that acts as rapporteur to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The World Alzheimer Report 2011 'The Benefits of Early Diagnosis and Intervention' seeks to encourage governments to promote early detection among physicians and health care professionals of dementia.

The researchers working on the report, led by a team from the Institute of Psychiatry at King's College London, were commissioned by ADI to undertake the research. This is the first time a body of work has brought together a comprehensive review of all evidence on early diagnosis and early intervention for dementia.

At the moment there exists a 'treatment gap', as the majority of patients are diagnosed late in the game, meaning a significant amount of treatment time has been lost already. This greatly impedes their access to valuable information, treatment, care and support. There are also significant knock-on effects for families, carers, communities and health professionals.

Lead author of the report,

Professor Martin Prince from King's College, comments: 'There is no single way to close the treatment gap worldwide. What is clear is that every country needs a national dementia strategy that promotes early diagnosis and a continuum of care thereafter. Primary care services, specialist diagnostic and treatment centers and community-based services all have a part to play, but to differing degrees depending upon resources.'

The report finds that as many as three-quarters of the estimated 36 million people worldwide living with dementia have not been diagnosed and are therefore not benefiting from treatment. In high-income countries, only 20% to 50% of dementia cases are recognised and documented in primary care, and in low- and middle-income countries, this proportion is thought to be as low as 10%.

But why does dementia keep falling under the radar? The researchers believe that failure to diagnose the condition can stem from the false belief that dementia is a normal or natural part of ageing and that nothing can be done to reverse the process. However, these new findings focus on the interventions that can in fact make a difference, meaning it is never too early to start proper treatment, as it is most effective in the first stages of the illness.

The report describes how

drugs and psychological interventions for people with early-stage dementia can improve cognition, independence, and quality of life, while support and counselling for carers can improve mood, reduce strain and delay the institutionalisation of people with dementia.

'Failure to diagnose Alzheimer's in a timely manner represents a tragic missed opportunity to improve the quality of life for millions of people,' says ADI Chairwoman Dr. Daisy Acosta. 'It only adds to an already massive global health, social, and fiscal challenge.'

The ADI believes every country should have a national Alzheimer's and dementia strategy that emphasises the importance of early diagnosis and intervention.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia. According to figures from ADI, the number of people with dementia is forecast to nearly double every 20 years - from 36 million in 2010 to 115 million in 2050 - meaning the need for early intervention has never been greater.

For more information, please visit: Fundacion Alzheimer Aruba (F.A.A.):

The goal of the foundation is to make people aware of the this neuro-cognitive illness called Alzheimer and to offer support to patients suffering of Alzheimer and their care takers.

SCI-TECH

Qantas in 'world-first' tablet trial



(AFP) -- Passengers on Qantas will be the first in the world to have in-flight entertainment streamed wirelessly to tablet devices in a trial announced by the Australian airline Thursday.

To be rolled out from the end of next month on one Boeing 767-300 flying domestic routes, the six-week test will see Qantas's current entertainment programme broadcast to a tablet supplied by the airline.

The brand of tablet is yet to be confirmed, but Qantas said Apple's popular iPad was among the models being considered.

"Q Streaming" will be made available to passengers for viewing on their own tablet, laptop or smartphone later in the trial and would be a key part of the scheme if ultimately adopted, Qantas said.

"We are very pleased to be the first airline in the world to trial this wireless streaming product," said Alison Webster, the airline's customer experience manager.

It will be assessed for wider roll-out both domestically and internationally once the trial is complete, she added, with supplied tablets to be specially configured not to work outside the aircraft if stolen.

The plan could also see a "play-back" option to allow passengers who did not finish

watching a programme on their own device before landing to complete their viewing, even after leaving the aircraft, Webster told the AAP newswire.

Replacing seat-back entertainment systems with tablets offered significant

Hitachi unveils headset to study brain activity



(AFP photo)--A Japanese research team on Wednesday unveiled a headset they say can measure activity in the brain and could be used to improve performance in the classroom or on the sports field.

Engineers from Hitachi working with university scientists say the lightweight headset will accurately measure minute changes in the amount of blood in the brain -- a key indicator of how hard the organ is working.

They said numerous wireless devices could be run si-

multaneously, with the data displayed on a screen in real time, allowing researchers to monitor the performance of up to 20 people, or a whole sporting team, at once.

The Japanese electronics giant said it currently has no plans for a commercial launch of the equipment, which uses near-infrared light to detect the amount of blood in the brain.

Scientists studying cognitive performance have previously had to use highly artificial environments, such as laying people in a dark tube and keeping their heads still, said Ryuta Kawashima, head of the research team.

But the newly developed gear will allow them to take measurements in real-life situations where human brains are interacting in complicated social situations, said Kawashima, of Tohoku University.

"One of my dreams is to help individuals better perform in society," said Kawashima, the scientist behind the smash-hit "Brain Training" games on Nintendo consoles.

Exploring the brain activity of, for example, football players to determine under which conditions they perform well could also help improve whole team performance, Kawashima said.

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Hungary plant to pay 500-million-euro fine over toxic mud

BUDAPEST (AFP) - Hungary's government announced Wednesday it had slapped a 500-million-euro fine on the alumina plant MAL Zrt for causing a massive toxic sludge spill almost a year ago that killed 10.

"MAL Zrt will be obliged to pay a fine of over 135 billion forints (500 million euros, \$684 million) for the environmental harm caused during the operation of the red mud reservoir," the government said on its website.

The height of the fine was decided based on the vol-

umes of toxic red mud and alkaline liquids released from the reservoir, it said.

"This amounts to 1,876,622 tonnes," it noted.

MAL Zrt now has 15 days to pay the fine or appeal the decision, according to the statement.

Ten people were killed and a state of emergency was declared on October 4, after a breach in the retaining walls of a reservoir at the plant in Ajka in western Hungary sent 1.1 million cubic metres (38.8 million cubic feet) of toxic red mud cascading into surrounding villages.

New dolphin species discovered

(AFP) -- Researchers in Australia have discovered that dolphin colonies living around Melbourne are a species unlike any other in the world, they revealed on Thursday.

The dolphins that frolic in Port Phillip Bay and the Gippsland Lakes, numbering around 150, were originally thought to be one of the two recognised bottlenose species.

But Monash University PhD researcher Kate Charlton-Robb found they were different by comparing skulls, DNA and physical traits with specimens dating back to the early 1900s.

She has named them Tur-

siops australis, although they will commonly be known as the Burrunan dolphin, an Aboriginal name meaning large sea fish of the porpoise kind.

"This is an incredibly fascinating discovery as there have only been three new dolphin species formally described and recognised since the late 1800s," Charlton-Robb said of her research, published in the PLoS One journal.

"What makes this even more exciting is this dolphin species has been living right under our noses, with only two known resident populations living in Port Phillip Bay and the Gippsland Lakes in Victoria state."



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Health & Living

GE to invest \$1 billion in cancer research



NEW YORK (AFP) - US industrial conglomerate General Electric said on Thursday that it would invest \$1 billion in cancer research over the next five years.

GE chief executive Jeff Immelt and several venture capital partners launched the initiative, which will be aimed at improving diagnostic techniques for breast cancer, the company said in a statement.

The investment will go to-

ward research and development into technologies and solutions for cancer detection and treatment, beginning with breast cancer, GE said.

GE and its partners also announced a \$100 million "global open innovation challenge" to provide grants to researchers who develop promising early-detection techniques.

The contest will focus on triple negative breast cancer, a

particularly aggressive kind of breast cancer which is less responsive to standard treatments than other forms of the disease.

The winners will be announced in the first quarter of 2012 after selection by a jury that includes top cancer scientists as well as representatives of GE and its financial partners, the company said.

"We envision a day when cancer is no longer a deadly disease," Immelt said in the statement.

"When you add our cutting edge cancer detection technologies to the innovative ideas of our new partners, it's a powerful formula for tackling cancer and helping doctors and researchers improve care."

GE's partners in the initiative include top venture-capital firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers as well as Venrock, Mohr Davidow and MPM Capital.

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The American Academy of Pediatrics suggests how to discuss bullying with your child:

- Explain that bullying is never acceptable.
- Set rules around any aggressive behavior, making sure to be firm and consistent in enforcing them.
- Lead by example; show your child that you don't need to threaten or embarrass others to get what you want.
- Discipline in a non-physical way, such as by taking away privileges.
- If your child has a history of bullying, work with school faculty to develop an appropriate solution.

S.African primary school injects girls with contraceptive



JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - A primary school in the South African city of Port Elizabeth has given girls a contraceptive injection to prevent early pregnancies, a spokesman said Thursday, infuriating parents.

A spokesman for the provincial health department said 18 girls at the Emzozincane primary school were involved in a programme meant to educate students about the dangers of early pregnancy.

"Three kids were under the age of 12," he said, adding that all the girls given the contraceptive were already sexually active.

They were treated by a

family planning programme from a local hospital, which the school had invited to speak with the students, he added.

The Herald newspaper said parents had only been informed that their children would be taught about menstruation and birth control.

"My concern is what effect this will have on my daughter because she hasn't even started menstruating," said Nandipha Ngalo, whose 11-year-old received an injection.

South African girls have a right to contraception without their parents' consent from age 12, said Ann Skelton, of the Centre for Child Law at the University of Pretoria.

The health ministry said in March that girls aged 12 to 17 were most at risk of rape, in a country where the charity Doctors Without Borders says a woman is violated every 26 seconds.

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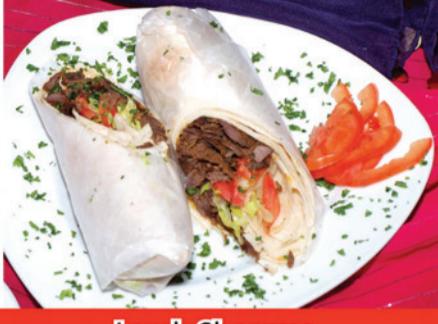
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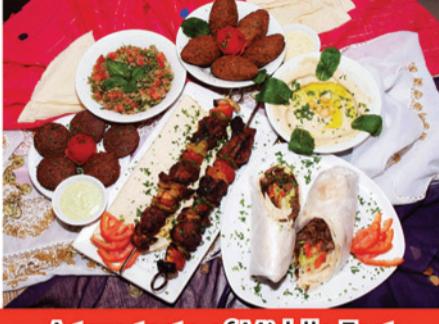
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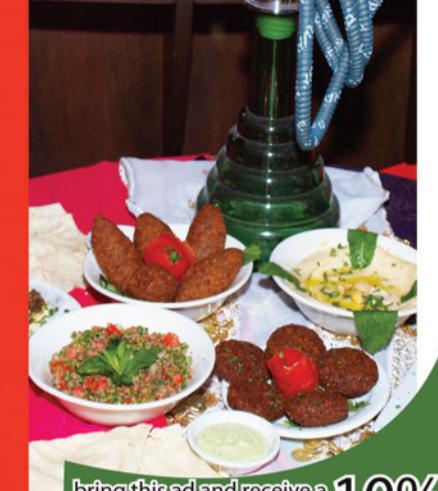


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Hadicurari Fisherman's clubhouse is getting a facelift



Minister Oduber with Hadicurari members



Minister Oduber with Hadicurari President Nilky Kock



Johann Henriquez holds the chisel while Minister takes a shot



Minister approves of block breaking style of Lindo Croes

Aruba's Minister of Tourism, Transport and Labor, Otmar Oduber, was pleased to join the community of local fishermen at their Hadicurari Center next to the Marriott Surf Club on Wednesday evening, September 14, for the "groundbreaking" of improvements to the facility.

President of Centro di Pisca Hadicurari, Nilky, Kock, invited Minister Oduber to be the first to take sledgehammer and chisel to the cement balustrade around the second floor terrace, which will be replaced by a significantly more attractive and modern glass barrier.

Hadicurari is one of two hubs for local fisherman which service what Nilky estimates to be around 150 islanders who continue to make their living by harvesting the Caribbean Sea's bounty. Minister Oduber commended the fishermen for providing fresh, healthy food for island tables and maintaining this traditional profession down through the generations, thus keeping alive an important aspect of Aruban culture. Nilky asserts that quite a few more still fish on weekends, holidays, and during tournaments, and that at least half the working fishermen continue to use the traditional and picturesque small wooden boats seen moored at Oranjestad Harbor or the Hadicurari pier.

Improvements to the clubhouse are expected to be completed by the end of the year. The complete renovation sponsored by the government of the piers at Spans Lagoen, which will provide storage sheds, proper docks, a kitchen and social center, was begun over a month ago, and this project should be done around the same time.

by Rosalie Klein

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Island mixologists learn the nuances of vodka from Grey Goose Brand Master Jason Drückenmiller



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Regular, Le Poire, L'Orange, Le Citron.



Jason Drückenmiller Brand Master.

The fine art of balancing ingredients to produce a delicious and refreshing cocktail

is not as simple as many may think, and understanding the quality and qualities of the liquor that is the base for these concoctions is essential. Tropical Bottling, which is now the exclusive agents for the famous French vodka, Grey Goose, welcomed Brand Master Jason Drückenmiller to conduct two days of informative seminars for island bartenders on fully deploying this singular distillation.

Mr. Drückenmiller's enthusiasm for his product certainly made the lessons not only informative, but stimulating, even for the uninitiated. It is the demanding standards of Cellar Master Francois Thibault, one of only eleven experts in the world to have earned that title, usually dedicated to the produc-

tion of fine cognacs, which can be credited in producing this fine liquor.

Cellar Master Thibault was intrigued by the challenge of producing a French vodka, and knew that the singularity of the principal ingredients would make it distinctive. Jason explained how it is the only vodka distilled with soft winter wheat acquired from the Picardy province, which is the "breadbasket of France," known for particularly fine quality grains, the same that make French bread so memorable. This is adjacent to the Grey Goose distillery, with the blending plant located in the south of France in the Cognac province, where they acquire spring waters directly from deep underground aquifers, purified by limestone formations and far away from modern day pollutants.

These ingredients and Cellar Master Thibault's philosophy of bringing out their nuances produces what is touted as "the world's best tasting vodka." Jason demonstrated some recipes which optimally deploy the flavored vodkas of Le Poire (Pear) Le Citron, which only uses Menton lemons from that region of France, known for their sweetness and lack of acidity, and L'Orange, with the pure fruit essence of Florida oranges. "We use no sugars or artificial flavor enhancers in our vodkas," he explained, "only the natural fruit essence. Some have commented they find this makes a notable difference over other flavored vodkas."

Aruban bartenders agreed it was a very enlightening and educational seminar, suggesting bar patrons wishing to discover a unique twist to their favorite standbys, might prefer to specify Grey Goose as the spirit used in their next vodka martini or any of dozens of popular cocktails.

by Rosalie Klein

Island press agree, a refreshing luncheon with Renaissance was a great break



Star server Betty with Yanis Garcia of The Morning News



Zugheila Linderborg of Meta-Corp with Leo Vrolijk



Cornel of Tele Aruba digs in

One of Aruba's great buffet bargains and a favorite place for movers and shakers to indulge in a power lunch is the Aquarius restaurant in the lobby of the Renaissance Marina Tower in Oranjestad. The fresh seafood buffet has the most amazing salad bar and an unlimited selection of sushi and desserts that makes it the top spot for the midday meal, for many people in the know.

September 1 is Aruba's Press Day, when many in the media are feted by various organizations that appreciate their support. It often becomes a hectic round of events requiring reporters to rush from one to another, often not really relaxing and enjoying them as well as they should.

MetaCorp, owners of the local Renaissance franchise, among many concerns, appreciated this situation, and so waited 2 weeks to host and press luncheon of appreciation in what is a favorite eatery for so many of them. The convivial ambiance of enjoying lunch with colleagues was further enhance by the charming presence of Renaissance Marketing executive Zugheila Linderborg as acting hostess, and some of the friendliest and most astute serving staff the island has to offer.

Aruban reporters and key office personnel enjoyed this interlude in a demanding week, punctuated by excellent food and stimulating company!

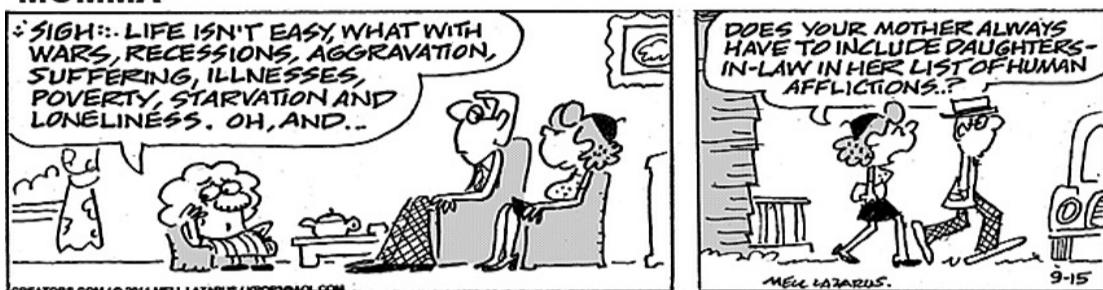
by Rosalie Klein

COMICS

PICKLES



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CALVIN and HOBBES



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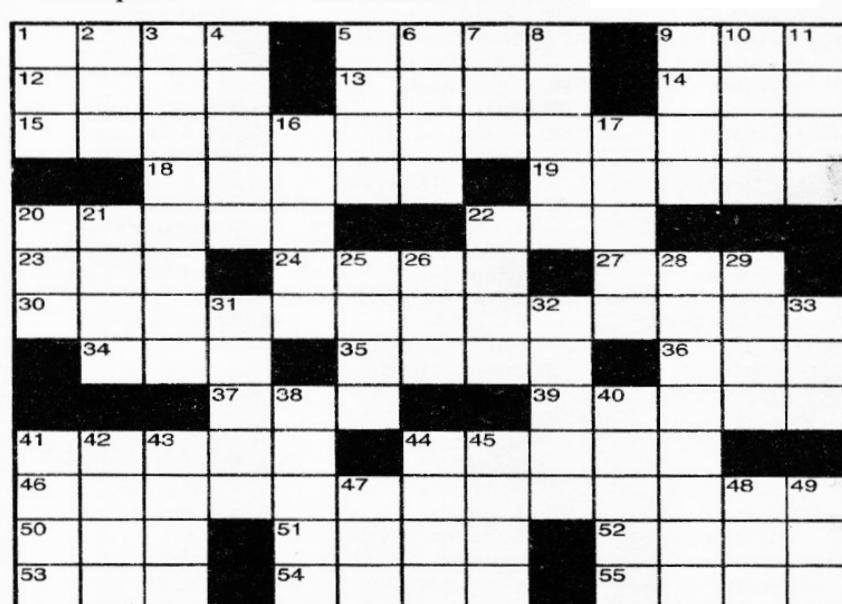
ACROSS

1. Imogene of "Your Show of Shows"
5. Palm starch
9. Cool character
12. Third-largest Hawaiian island
13. Paydirt contents
14. Cheer for Segovia
15. Venice's nickname
18. Cotton fibers
19. Join, as a contest
20. Turned white
22. Presidential nickname
23. Here, to Pierre
24. Canine mood gauge
27. Word after mon or bon
30. Gilbert and Sullivan work
34. Go wrong
35. "Things That I Used ___"
36. Fri. follower
37. Director Burrows
39. "Bobby Shaftoe went ___"
41. Make up for a misdeed
44. Finnish fitness fixture
46. Venetian landmark
50. Diminutive, in Dogpatch
51. Satchmo's frequent duet partner

52. ___-a-dire
53. River to the North Sea
54. Wedding cake unit
55. Noble Italian name

DOWN

1. What's left when the kernels are gone
2. Scull's need
3. Less temperate
4. WWII hero Murphy
5. Coal-combustion product
6. Canine sounds
7. Acquire
8. Milo of "Barbarella"
9. Outlay
10. Toward shelter, at sea
11. Cheek runner
16. Put an ___ (defeat)
17. China's Chou
20. Orchestra's spot
21. Feel sore
22. Lump of earth
25. Put up money
26. Altar vow
28. Items bottled on desert isles
29. "Dies ___" (opening song in "The Shining")
31. Relative



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Care Center
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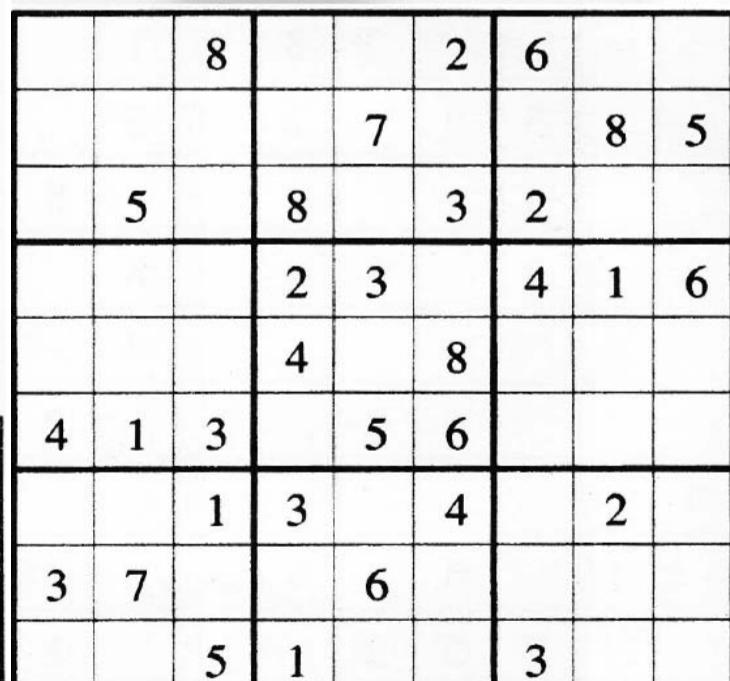
HOSPITAL
Horacio Oduber Hospital
Tel. 587-4300

EMERGENCY
Telephone 911

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SOLUTION

8	4	5	1	2	7	3	6	9
3	7	2	9	6	5	1	4	8
9	6	1	3	7	5	6	8	2
4	2	9	4	1	8	7	5	3
5	8	7	2	3	9	4	1	6
1	5	6	8	9	3	2	7	4
2	3	4	6	7	1	9	8	5
7	9	8	5	4	2	6	3	1

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

Energy body ends strategic oil reserves release

PARIS (AFP) - The IEA said on Thursday that it ended its release of oil from strategic reserves begun in June to compensate for a cut in supplies from Libya, just days after forecasting resumed production in the country.

The International Energy Agency said its 28-member countries "concluded that the interrupted Libyan supplies have been successfully addressed by a combination of the IEA collective action and increased production from producer countries," the body said in a statement.

The IEA, which represents the major oil consuming nations, launched the collective drawdown on June 23 as the loss of the 1.6 million barrels per day of Libyan oil production had begun to affect the markets.

The price of North Sea Brent quality crude had ranged between \$105 and \$120 per barrel since May, with the June announcement of the IEA releasing stocks causing a plunge by about \$10 dollars a barrel that soon evaporated.

On Thursday, Brent North Sea crude for delivery in October jumped \$2.78 to \$115.18 a barrel in late London deals after the IEA said it was halting the stocks release. New

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer


York's main contract, light sweet crude for delivery in October, climbed 75 cents to \$89.66.

The IEA also noted the end to the collective action, which was renewable every thirty days, comes "against a backdrop now of weakening expectations for global oil demand growth."

But while the IEA and OPEC cartel have both trimmed their forecasts for growth in oil demand, US banking titan Goldman Sachs said Thursday that crude should hit about \$130 a barrel within a year as strong Asian demand offsets an economic slowdown in the West.

In the IEA action member countries agreed to make available to the market 60 million barrels of crude oil and oil products, of which 38 million barrels were released from government stocks and 22 million barrels via relaxation of obligatory stock rules on private companies.

The agency said uptake

from public stocks had been 97 percent compared to 73 percent during the last collective IEA action in 2005 and that member countries will exercise flexibility in re-establishing their emergency stock levels through 2011 and 2012.

The IEA noted that the collective action required none of the involved IEA countries to go below the 90-day reserve requirement.

In its monthly review of the oil market released on Tuesday, the IEA said Libya could recover a quarter of the oil production by the end of the year and two-thirds by the end of next year.

But the agency said that the view of many in the oil industry was that a return to the pre-conflict production level of 1.6 million barrels a day could take two to three years.

"Indeed the twin challenges of creating political stability and security on the ground... are formidable," the IEA said.

In the review, the agency revised its expectations of crude production capacity from zero to between 350,000 and 400,000 barrels per day by the end of 2011, rising to 1.1 mbd by the fourth quarter of 2012.

This differed with far more ambitious projections of 500,000 barrels a day by mid-September and 1.6 mbd in a year were made by the state run Arabian Gulf Oil Company, based in Benghazi.

To the IEA, security and infrastructure remain key challenges that limit any real ability to forecast a return to pre-conflict levels of production.

World's central banks join forces on debt crisis

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Leading central banks leapt into action Thursday to inject dollars into banks threatened by the eurozone's debt mountain as EU finance ministers gathered for key talks to resolve the crisis.

The damage caused by the eurozone's debt saga was laid bare by a European Commission economic forecast showing that growth in the 17-nation single currency area will nearly grind to a halt by the end of the year.

In Frankfurt, the European Central Bank, along with its US, Japanese, Swiss and British counterparts, announced they would act in concert to inject extra dollar

liquidity into banks facing a shortage of the US currency.

The announcement sparked a European stock market rally, with bank shares rebounding after falling in recent days as their usual sources of dollars dried up on concerns they might be hit by a Greek debt default.

The ECB said the central banks will "conduct three US dollar liquidity-providing operations with a maturity of approximately three months covering the end of the year" -- instead of the usual seven-day operations.

Back in Brussels, EU Economic Affairs Commissioner Olli Rehn said the economy

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three months of the year, worse than previously thought.

The European Commission said weakening global demand and trade over the summer, and signs that the recovery lost steam in the United States, also contributed to Europe's economic slowdown.

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Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters,

caterers, airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for

homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee.



parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All

Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting online at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



Elliotti's offers fine Italian cuisine and cozy island ambiance



Adriana and staff



Chef Jeffrey Elliot

Since opening in May of 2009, Elliotti's, located adjacent to the Costa Linda parking lot, has established itself as one of the most popular restaurants in the "low-rise" area. Owner Adrianna Sanchez has paid a lot of attention to detail and personally presides over her domain with a welcoming smile and a sincere concern for the satisfaction of her patrons.

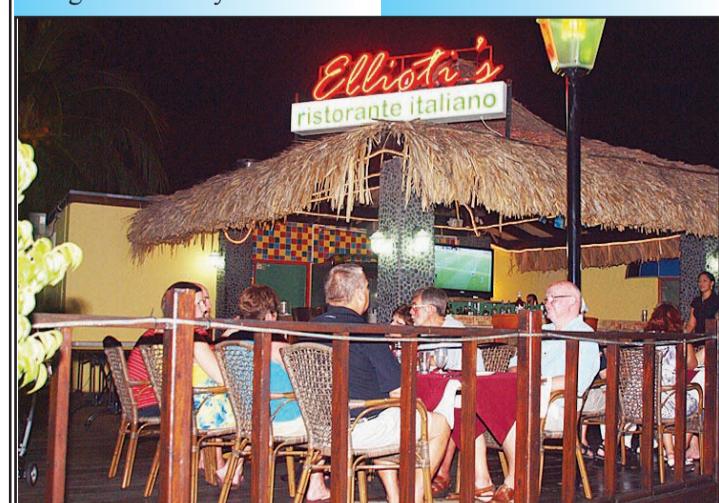
The eatery is named for Chef Jeffrey Elliot, who was instrumental in establishing one of Aruba's original and most popular Italian restaurants of days past, Valentino's. He has brought his deft hand to this charming new location, offering a diversity of dishes

which has earned it high praise on a number of Internet review sites such as Tripadvisor and restaurantsaruba.com. "A hidden jewel" effuses one enthusiastic customer, "the best Shrimp Fra Diablo I have ever had!" Another reviewer on Tripadvisor credits Elliotti's with "the best Fettuccine Carbonara that I've ever had - and I've eaten at a lot of New York area Italian restaurants."

Elliotti's offers al fresco dining on their charming terrace or air-conditioned comfort in the dining room with the ambiance of a cozy Italian home. Fresh homemade pasta at extremely reasonable prices is their specialty, along with authentic Italian treatment of steak, seafood and fowl. Three nights a week the restaurant features live music from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.; every Tuesday enjoy piano accompaniment to your meal, on Saturdays Gerardo will enchant you with his gentle guitar.

If you enjoy a social evening with friends and good conversation with your meal, Elliotti's extremely tranquil setting is the perfect place to savor fine food and company. Open from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. six days a week, closed on Sunday.

It is recommended you call 588-7329 or 588 7339 to make reservations.





New book details Cuba-US espionage



Fernando Morais's Book Dedicated to the Cuban Five, imprisoned in the U.S.

BRASILIA (AFP) - A new book detailing the acts of spies waging the clandestine struggle between Cuba and the United States in the 1990s is about to get its English-language release after finding success in Brazil.

"The Last Cold War Soldiers," by author and journalist Fernando Morais, is peopled with unlikely real-life characters who engaged in behind-the-scenes intrigue involving Washington, Havana and the Cuban exiles based in Miami and determined to undermine the regime of then-leader Fidel Castro.

Among them is Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Colombia's bestselling writer who served as a messenger for Castro; an anti-Castro saboteur who

dreamed of being Sylvester Stallone as he set off bombs in Cuba, where he is now jailed; and 14 Cuban secret agents who spied on the Miami exiles for eight years before being arrested by the FBI in 1998.

"As soon as the Cuban agents were arrested in the United States in 1998 I wanted to do a book," Morais told AFP.

After 10 years of negotiating access to classified Cuban documents, Morais released his book in Brazil last month. Since then, 20,000 copies have been sold.

US and Mexican publishers are about to release the English and Spanish versions of the book, and movie rights have been sold for a US-Brazilian co-production.

Winehouse family launch foundation to help youngsters

LONDON (AFP) - The family of Amy Winehouse on Wednesday launched a foundation to help vulnerable young people on what would have been the British soul star's 28th birthday.

Almost two months after the "Rehab" singer was found dead in her London home following a lengthy battle with alcohol and drugs, her parents unveiled the project.

It coincided with Winehouse's first posthumous release, a duet with American singer Tony Bennett called "Body and Soul", with proceeds from its sale providing an early financial boost to the foundation.

"We want to give money to projects that make a direct difference," said the singer's mother Janis.

"It is a source of great comfort to know that Amy would be proud of this and right behind it."

The Amy Winehouse Foundation aims to help young people in Britain and abroad who need support because of addiction, ill health, disability or financial disadvantage, according to its website.

"It seemed appropriate that the focus of our work should be with young people," said her father Mitch Winehouse.

"Amy touched millions

Audiences fund films they want to watch

September 8-18, 2011

THE 36TH TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

TORONTO (AFP) - Private financing is leading a boom in documentaries -- as evidenced by the record number screened at the 36th Toronto International Film Festival, wrapping up on Sunday.

A growing number of filmmakers have also been drawn to the genre's low production costs (usually less than \$500,000 to make a documentary) and freedom from studio oversight, organizers said.

"We've seen this sector grow more and more every year," said Thom Powers, lead documentary programmer at the festival, which opened for the first time ever this year with a documentary, about Irish rock band U2.

From September 8 to 18, the Toronto film festival -- the largest in North America -- will have screened 268 feature films, including 30 documentaries.

"For a long time broadcasters were the main source of financing (for documentaries) but now filmmakers are attracting private investment money," said Powers.

Others, like New York director Gary Hustwit's "Urbanized," which premiered at the Toronto film festival, some are raising money "directly from the Internet" by appealing to audiences and asking them what they want to see.

Powers calls it "crowd funding."

Websites such as Kickstarter.com and Indiegogo.com are among some of the websites facilitating such direct fundraising.

"It's an important growth area for filmmakers to raise money," he said. "It's a very exciting new trend that means filmmakers no longer have to go through (studios or broadcasters), the gatekeepers of money."

Also, with documentaries "you can target a specific audience, for example, with 'Urbanized' they targeted people who are passionate about urban planning, architecture and design."

Hustwit, who previously profiled the makers of graphics and household objects in "Helvetica" (2007) and "Ob-

jectified" (2009), looks at new strategies for meeting the challenges of cities, such as expanding Mumbai and shrinking Detroit, in his new film.

The acclaimed director takes audiences on a tour of new models for low-income housing in Santiago, unique walking paths in Cape Town that helped reduce violence by 40 percent, and Bogota's plan to put public transportation ahead of automobiles.

Directors such as Werner Herzog ("The Enigma of Kaspar Hauser"), Cameron Crowe ("Jerry McGuire" and "Almost Famous") and Win Wenders ("The Buena Vista Social Club") are also being drawn to the genre, said Powers, because it is liberating.

"They have more freedom of expression with documentaries because there isn't as much money or industry pressure, and you don't have to set up and travel with a big crew, trailers for stars, etcetera," he explained.

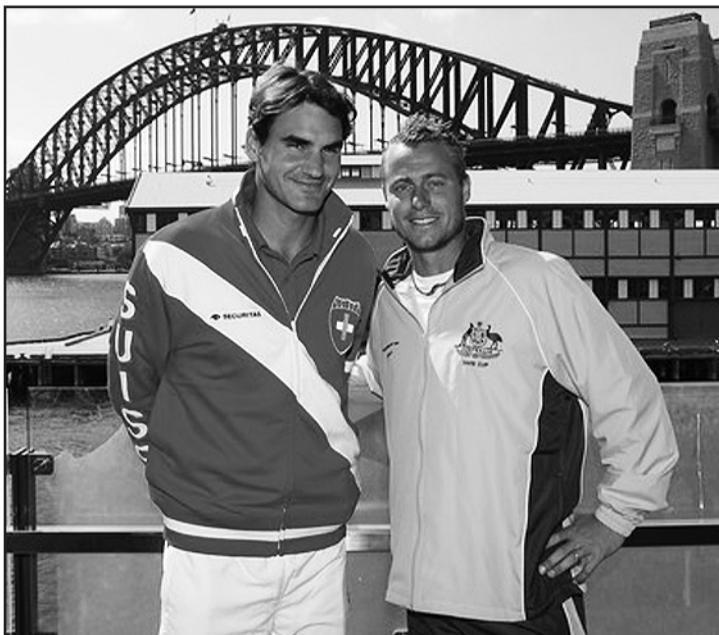
The film festival opened last week with a documentary on the Irish rock band U2's dizzying rise to superstardom and near break-up, "From The Sky Down." It was directed by Davis Guggenheim, who won an Oscar in 2007 for "An Inconvenient Truth," a documentary on climate change featuring former US vice president Al Gore.

Since then, documentaries have actually outpaced their fictional counterparts at the festival box office, one on one. (Toronto is coincidentally also host to one of the world's largest documentary film festivals, HotDocs).

Other films at the Toronto International Film Festival this year are documentaries about Neil Young and Pearl Jam; the history of film (Mark Cousins's "The Story of Film: An Odyssey"); water woes (Jessica Yu's "Last Call at the Oasis"); the Maldives' fight against climate change ("The Island President"); problems caused by new technologies ("Surviving Progress"); the fallout of Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak's downfall ("Tahir 2011"); the death penalty ("Into the Abyss"); and US politics ("Sarah Palin -- You betcha!").



Federer to face Hewitt in Davis Cup clash



Roger Federer of Switzerland (L) and Lleyton Hewitt of Australia (R) pose during the official draw for the Davis Cup

SYDNEY (AFP) - Roger Federer will face Lleyton Hewitt while Stanislas Wawrinka takes on Bernard Tomic on the opening day of the Davis Cup World Group play-off between Switzerland and Australia today.

The draw pits Australia's Tomic against Wawrinka in the opening match on grass courts at the Royal Sydney Golf Club, with Federer and home hope Hewitt to follow.

Despite a gruelling five-set US Open semi-final loss to eventual champion Novak Djokovic on Sunday and a long flight to Sydney, Federer was also named to play doubles.

The world number three will pair with close friend Wawrinka to face Hewitt and Chris Guccione on Saturday as the Swiss attempt to reverse losses in their four previous Davis Cup meetings against Australia.

Swiss captain Severin Luthi backed star man Fed-

erer to cope with the short preparation time.

"He's a great champion, we know that, and for sure it's always better if you have more days, but I'm sure that he can handle this and be ready on Friday," Luthi told reporters.

Australian captain Pat Rafter said the choice of grass was more about Wawrinka than anything else, with the Swiss having a 9-13 career record on the surface.

"We have to look at what's our best chance of winning this Davis Cup tie and obviously playing Federer on any surface is not great," Rafter said.

"So we look at what is Wawrinka's worst surface and he does not like grass. If we've got any chance of beating these guys, we have to take down Wawrinka."

Elsewhere, weary Rafael Nadal will kick off Spain's Davis Cup semi-final bid when he takes on France's Richard Gasquet in today's opening rubber although the world number two is still recovering from his US Open final defeat.

The Spanish are favourites with two top five ranked players in Nadal and David Ferrer as they bid to reach the final for the third time in four years in Cordoba's bullring.

France, runners-up last year, are hoping to follow on from their 5-0 whitewash over Spain in last year's World Group quarter-finals.

US Open runner-up Nadal and Gasquet have played nine times but the 15th-ranked Frenchman has never come out on top against the world number two.

Fifth-ranked Ferrer takes on Simon, ranked 11, in Fri-

day's second rubber.

"I will not be 100 percent to play my best on the clay court, but I hope I will have enough," said Nadal, who lost a four-set epic title match to Novak Djokovic at the US Open on Monday.

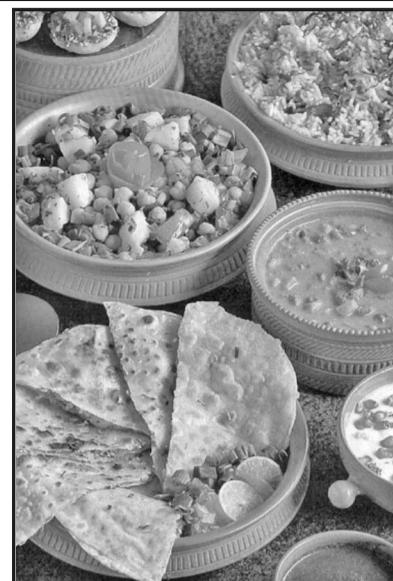
Djokovic's participation in the opening rubber of the Davis Cup semi-final against Argentina on Friday has been thrown into doubt as the Serbian star arrives home just days after lifting the US Open title.

The world number one was drawn on Thursday to take on 74th-ranked David Nalbandian in the opening match here. But the 24-year-old will arrive in Belgrade on Thursday just three days after claiming the US Open crown.

"Novak arrives today and we'll see at what point he will be ready to play," teammate Viktor Troicki said. "In any case I'll be ready and will fight for each point to help Serbia to victory," added the world number 16.

Coach Bogdan Obradovic can change his team up to an hour before the tie as the reigning champions bid a second consecutive final.

Davis Cup veteran Nalbandian, 29, faces a potentially tough task against Djokovic, who has a 64-2 win-loss record in 2011 including a remarkable three Grand



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England eye clean sweep against India

LONDON (AFP) - England captain Alastair Cook is hoping to complete a miserable tour for India today by wrapping up a 3-0 one-day series victory over the tourists.

India are yet to taste victory over England this summer, having been whitewashed 4-0 in the Test series and trailing 2-0 ahead of Friday's final one-day in Cardiff.

However India came agonisingly close to pipping England at Lord's last weekend, and Cook remains wary of the threat posed by the wounded tourists heading into the match.

"The last two games have been very close, and have shown what a talented side

India are," Cook said.

"We're going to have to play at the top of our game to try to win, and finish the summer on a high as a one-day team."

Cook however is satisfied with England's form in his first season in charge as skipper of the limited overs side, which also included a 3-2 series win over Sri Lanka.

"It's been a good start, and I'm very happy with the way the lads have taken to me as captain and bought into the ideas," Cook said.

"I'm very happy with winning both series. We know how tough it's going to be in the next two months or so (in a return series in India), but this side has always responded well to challenges."

Cook also believes England's one-day squad can improve.

"We are a very young side trying to make progress," he said. "The exciting thing is I don't think we've played as well as we can."

"We have been put under pressure in this series, but have still won the games. That is very encouraging."

Meanwhile Cook paid tribute to India batsman Rahul Dravid, who will be playing his 344th and final one-day game.

"He's scored 10,000 runs in both forms of the game. He's managed to adapt his game to every surface," Cook said. "He is an all-time great."

Tavares signs for 6 yrs with Islanders



UNIONDALE, NY - Photo depicts John Tavares of the New York Islanders speaking to the media during a press conference to announce he has signed a six-year contract extension with the New York Islanders on September 15, 2011 at the Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, New York.

The 20-year-old center has agreed to a six-year contract extension with the Islanders.

Tavares will receive \$4 million in the first year, \$5 million in the second, then \$6 million each of remaining four years

for a \$33 million total deal and an average annual value of \$5.5 million, a source told ESPN.com's Pierre LeBrun.

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Owners, players seek support as time ticks away



LAS VEGAS (AFP) - NBA club owners and players met in separate sessions with their constituencies on Thursday to explain the state of talks as an ongoing lockout reached its 76th day with no deal in sight.

Players gathered in Las

Vegas, where NFL Players Association executive director DeMaurice Smith met with NBA talent. Smith represented players in talks with the NFL in a lockout that ended in July after 4 1/2 months.

Team owners met in Dallas amid reports by ESPN and Sports Illustrated that there are deep divides among them, in part after Sports Illustrated published an e-mail from union president Derek Fisher to players on its website.

Owners imposed the shutdown 2 1/2 months ago after being unable to sign a new collective bargaining agreement with players. They seek a tight salary cap to promote parity and cut expenses, saying only eight of 30 teams make money.

The latest negotiating session ended Tuesday with no optimism from either side, NBA players union executive director Billy Hunter saying players should be ready to miss as much as half of the scheduled upcoming season.

Time is running out on staging the season openers on November 1 as planned. Training camps are due to open October 3 with pre-season games to begin a week later.

Los Angeles Lakers veteran Fisher's e-mail asked players for patience and support and hinted at divides among club owners stemming from talks last Tuesday.

"What actually happened in those meetings was discussion, brainstorming and a sharing of options by both sides," Fisher said.

"The turning point this past Tuesday was not a disagreement between the players and the owners. It was actually a fundamental divide between the owners internally. They could not agree with each other on specific points of the deal and therefore it caused conflict within the league and its owners."

Players made a pitch to see their share of basketball-related revenues, about \$4.1 billion, drop from 57 percent in the old deal to 52 or 53 percent in a new contract.

Owners were considering budging from a salary freeze to link future income to NBA revenue growth and keep current salaries without give-backs, but some club owners did not want to make those concessions, ESPN reported.

MLB Standings

American League

	East	W	L	Pct	GB
NY YANKEES	90	58	.608	--	
BOSTON	86	62	.581	4.0	
TAMPA	82	65	.554	8.0	
TORONTO	75	74	.503	15.5	
BALTIMORE	60	88	.405	30.0	

Central

	DETROIT	87	62	.584	--
CHICAGO	73	75	.493	13.5	
CLEVELAND	72	74	.493	13.5	
KANSAS	64	86	.427	23.5	
MINNESOTA	59	89	.399	27.5	

West

	TEXAS	85	64	.570	--
LA ANGELES	82	67	.550	3.0	
OAKLAND	67	82	.450	18.0	
SEATTLE	62	87	.416	23.0	

National League

East

	x-PHILADELPHIA	95	51	.651	--
ATLANTA	86	64	.573	11.0	
NY METS	71	78	.477	25.5	
WASHINGTON	70	77	.476	25.5	
FLORIDA	67	81	.453	29.0	

Central

	MILWAUKEE	87	63	.580	--
ST. LOUIS	81	68	.544	5.5	
CINCINNATI	73	76	.490	13.5	
PITTSBURG	67	82	.450	19.5	
CHICAGO	65	84	.436	21.5	
HOUSTON	51	98	.342	35.5	

West

	ARIZONA	87	63	.580	--
SAN FRANCISCO	79	70	.530	7.5	
LA DODGERS	73	75	.493	13.0	
COLORADO	70	78	.473	16.0	
SAN DIEGO	63	87	.420	24.0	

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Chan soars at Macau Open with last-gasp eagle



MACAU (AFP) - Taiwan's Chan Yih-shin carded an eagle at the last hole to card a five-under-par 66 for a share of the first round lead at the Macau Open on Thursday.

Chan, seeking his second

Asian Tour win, was tied overnight at the Macau Golf and Country Club with Anthony Kang of the United States, Rikard Karlberg of Sweden and Englishman Nick Redfern.

Taiwanese veteran Wang Ter-chang, who won the 2005 tournament, rolled back the years to start the \$750,000 event with a round of 67.

Chan eagled the par five 18th after landing a 230-yard four-iron approach shot 20 feet from the pin.

"I didn't expect to eagle the last hole. I hit a good drive and attacked the green and knew I needed to get my putt as close to the hole as possible but it went in instead which was a bonus,"

said the 34-year-old.

Chan currently lies 64th in the tour Order of Merit but said his confidence was growing and he hoped to put a difficult year behind him.

Korean-American Kang, 38, has also endured a poor year, missing 20 out of 27 cuts, but his touch returned in Macau as he sank six birdies and hit all but four fairways.

At the ripe old age of 49, Wang is playing some of his best golf, continuing his form from last week's Singapore Classic with a strong first round in Macau that featured four birdies in his last six holes.

The Macau Open has been a regular fixture on the Asian Tour calendar and has previously attracted some of the world's best players, including England's Lee Westwood, who won in 1999, and 2003 victor Colin Montgomerie of Scotland.

Balotelli interviewed over Naples mafia link

ROME (AFP) - Manchester City striker Mario Balotelli has been interviewed by the public prosecutor in Naples over links to the local mafia, known as the Camorra, Italian media have reported.

Balotelli travelled back to Italy with the Napoli team in the early hours of Thursday morning following Wednesday

night's Champions League clash at the Etihad Stadium.

On Thursday at 15.30 local time he went to the Public Prosecutor's office to discuss a trip he took around a notorious Camorra stronghold in Naples called Scampia.

Balotelli is said to have been accompanied on his visit, in June last year, by suspected Camorra

leader Marco Iorio, who has been arrested for money laundering, amongst others.

The 21-year-old forward previously claimed he did not know who Iorio was.

"I didn't know who those people were, that day in Naples there were always many people around me," said Balotelli back in June this year.

Batista fury over Maradona 'bribes' broadside



Argentine football legend Maradona

Buenos Aires (AFP) - Former Argentina coach Diego Maradona is in hot water after he accused sacked successor Sergio Batista of accepting bribes to include certain players in the team, local media reports alleged Thursday.

Batista was sacked after July's Copa America flop on home soil having only replaced Maradona following the 2010 World Cup, which ended in a quarter-final thrashing by Germany.

Batista had already been in the Argentine coaching set-up before taking over from Maradona as coach of the senior side having led the Olympic squad to glory at the 2008 Games.

He said he is taking legal action after Maradona, now coach of UAE club Al Wasl, for telling TyC Sports broadcaster that "after we (Maradona and his entourage) took over the team there was an end to bribes".

Maradona suggested that certain arrangements had been in place to giving certain players guarantees before he stamped out the practice.

Batista strongly rejected Maradona's allegations and said he would take legal action to counter Maradona's "falsehoods (which are) a product of resentment" at being ousted as national coach.

Maradona meanwhile said he was still unhappy to have been relieved of his duties with the Albiceleste but "I have done my period of mourning and I am very happy in Dubai, trying to show that when they give you time you can do things well."



Batista

Bin Hammam loses appeal over lifetime ban

ZURICH (AFP) - Ousted Asian football chief Mohamed bin Hammam on Thursday lost his appeal against a lifetime ban from football, world governing body FIFA announced.

The Qatari was slapped with the ban in July after he was found guilty of trying to buy votes in the FIFA presidential race.

He denied all the charges.

"The appeal made by Mohammed bin Hammam has been rejected. The sanction of being banned from taking part in any kind of football-related activity (administrative, sports or any other) at national and international level for life has therefore been maintained," said a FIFA statement.

Bin Hammam, 62, the former head of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) de-

scribed the charges against him as "politically motivated".

His suspension by FIFA over the bribery accusations led to his withdrawal from the world football body's leadership election, handing incumbent president Sepp Blatter a fourth consecutive term in office.

The controversy highlighted allegations of corruption in FIFA and sparked calls

for reform of its governance structure, which anti-graft watchdog Transparency International recently called "opaque".

The vote-buying accusations also raised questions over last year's controversial decision to award Qatar the right to host the 2022 World Cup, beating Australia, the United States, South Korea and Japan.

Bolt targets season world 100m best



BRUSSELS (AFP) - World record holder Usain Bolt has targeted a season's 100m best at today's final Diamond League meeting of 2011 to help ease a little of the lingering pain of his sensational world championships disqualification.

Olympic champion Bolt, who saw compatriot Yohan Blake take his world title in Daegu last month after his in-

famous false start, believes the Memorial meeting track in Brussels will encourage a fast time.

"I really want this world year best and I feel good. I think I have it in me to run the fastest time of the year. The track in Brussels is simply excellent", said Bolt, who has fellow Jamaican Asafa Powell's season-best of 9.78sec in his sights.

Bolt, who still managed to win gold medals at the world championships in the 200m and 4x100m, arrived in Belgium straight from Zagreb where he ran 9.85sec on Tuesday, his best time of the season.

"Whether I'm more nervous at the start now? Not really, but it does linger on in my mind a bit," he admitted.

"As a professional, I have to learn to deal with such matters."

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The map shows the flight routes of Tiara Air Aruba. Aruba is at the top, with a dashed line route to Bonaire to the east. A solid line route goes to Curacao to the north. Another dashed line route goes to Punto Fijo, Las Piedras, and Coro in Venezuela to the south. The map also shows the coastline of Colombia to the west and the northern coast of Venezuela to the south.

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